

IMMERSING IN SOUTH ASIAN CULTURE

Missions in India:

- In one sense, India has a rich Christian heritage
- Yet, in another India has been the most formidable missiological challenge in the history of the world
- No country has had more resources put in and less visible fruit come forth (3-5% of India is known as “Christian”)

Ministries of Honor

- Protim suggests, ministries need to reimagine themselves as a kind of hybrid home where South-Asian students can explore cultural and spiritual questions as well as the tension between their native and emerging selves
 - Protim calls us to new methods, models and ultimately, new mindsets to replace old ones that effectively say, “these other cultures – South-Asian, Indian, Hindu – are fine, but we must be able to locate them within our own grid.”
 - Ministries of honor are ministries of immersion
 - Like study abroad programs that immerse students in a culture and language, ministers must subordinate their experience to that which feels foreign
 - Immerse ourselves in new spaces to make them frequent locations for learning about Hindu thought, culture, and community (Example of Protim’s weekly visits to the Hindu temple)
 - Take a genuine interest in Hindus and know them and their beliefs, on their terms
 - Jesus immersed himself in a community under someone else’s teaching for most of his life so that he could eventually teach a people – Jews and Gentiles – that he was the fulfillment of their story
 - Hindu people are among those Gentiles, and Jesus is the fulfillment of their Gita, their Mahabharata, and their fears, idolatries, hopes, and stories
 - Become ministries of honor, honoring their culture and the cross-shaped and cross-cultural shape of his call
 - Join our campuses’ South Asian societies
 - Commit to our campuses’ Hindu chaplaincy
 - Make these communities and their lectures, events, even retreats frequent locations
 - “In light of the current situation, we should relook at our missions methods and not provoke...We should not temper our evangelizing; instead, we should get more creative.” – Wati Longkumer from the Indian Mission Association
 - It won’t be comfortable, it may not even be ideal, but our ministries of immersion will be joyful, exciting offerings of faith that the Lord will honor
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